



# JACK DOYLE

## MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**For Immediate Release:**

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

### **DOYLE ISSUES PROCLAMATION HONORING PROBATION DEPARTMENT'S 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

Citing a century of dedicated service to crime prevention, public safety and law enforcement, County Executive Jack Doyle today issued a proclamation recognizing the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the County's Probation Department and its role in the community's criminal justice system.

"As the oldest and largest alternative to incarceration, probation continues to provide quality services to assist offenders in becoming law-abiding citizens while providing public safety protection to the community," said Doyle. "Today's recognition must focus on the men and women who, through their dedicated professionalism and their tireless devotion to duty as probation officers, provide a critical and vital service to the citizens of this community."

New York enacted the first probation law in 1901. In March of that year, Monroe County organized the first Probation Department in the state, handling both juvenile and adult cases. The department's staff in 1901 consisted of one individual. By 1905 the staff included five and supervised 401 cases. Today the department's staff consists of 234 and supervises 12,000 cases.

"I am extremely proud of the dedication and talent exemplified by our current probation officers and other staff," said Robert Burns, director of the Monroe County Probation Department. "I am equally proud and respectful of those whose vision initiated these important services in 1901. This department has built upon one success after another throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. With a history rich in staff dedication to community safety and an openness to new ideas to reduce

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crime, Monroe County's Probation Department is proud of its statewide reputation for community corrections leadership."

Many of today's probation officers are certified substance abuse counselors and specialize in securing appropriate treatment for their clients. The officers also provide adult and juvenile offenders with structured guidance, assistance in obtaining a wide range of community-based resources, housing, medical and mental health care, gainful employment and education.

While the peace officers perform a variety of dangerous functions involving arrests, searches, seizures and surveillance of offenders, they frequently work in partnership with community agencies and groups in order to promote and enhance community links.

Monroe County was the first county in the state to acquire jurisdiction over cases of children under 16 years of age who were delinquent, neglected or otherwise subject to the discipline or in need of the care and protection of the state. In the year 1910 the legislature provided for the establishment of a detention home, a probation system, and the appointment of guardians for such children.

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